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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 28 September 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Ramírez Carreño ..... (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Organization of work (A/72/250; A/C.4/72/1; A/C.4/72/INF/1 and A/C.4/72/INF/4; A/C.4/72/L.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the agenda items allocated to the Committee (A/C.4/72/1), to the list of documents before the Committee (A/C.4/72/INF/1) and to the Committee's proposed programme of work (A/C.4/72/L.1). He then drew attention to the relevant rules and recommendations of the General Assembly regarding the work of the Main Committees, as contained in the report of the General Committee (A/72/250) and in Assembly decision 34/401 and resolutions 58/316, 69/321 and 71/323, and said that the Committee would comply with them strictly.

2. The Committee would continue the practice of holding interactive dialogues under the agenda items relating to outer space, information, peacekeeping, special political missions, mine action, the effects of atomic radiation, as well as to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

3. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work (A/C.4/72/L.1).

4. *It was so decided.*

5. As at previous sessions, the Committee would set up a working group of the whole to prepare draft resolutions for submission under agenda item 52, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The working group would be chaired by the delegation of Canada, which had submitted the relevant draft resolutions. He took it that the Committee wished to establish the group.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **The Chair** noted that, in approving its programme of work, the Committee had decided to hold one general debate covering all agenda items relating to decolonization, namely items 58 to 62, enabling members to speak on any or all of those agenda items at any meeting devoted to the topic.

Requests for hearings

8. **The Chair** informed the Committee that he had received 157 communications containing requests for hearings relating to the questions of French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, New Caledonia, Turks and Caicos and Western Sahara under item 62. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at the subsequent meeting.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** said that he had also received communications from the President of French Polynesia, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Governor of Guam and the President of New Caledonia, who wished to address the Committee under agenda item 62. Their statements would be scheduled accordingly.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.